

## M E R C A T O R :

O R,

## Commerce Retrieved;

From Saturday, June 12. to Tuesday, June 15. 1714.

*As our Opposers Arguments decline, so their Ignorance decreases.**They began like Lyons, and bullyed all that talk'd with them.**Having exhausted their Billingsgate, and come to Argument, they make but poor sorry work of it.**They pretend the French will not wear our Manufactures, yet they are fain to bring the absolute Power of the King in to prevent them.**This Confounds all they ever said on the Subject.**If their Manufactures were as good as ours, what need of Duties, Prohibitions, &c. to keep them out?**What need of Tyrannick Power to oblige the People not to wear them?**Dearness and badness is the most effectual Prohibition in the World.**A Weeks prodigious Export to France just now.**What would the Trade have been had the Duties in France been abated, as had been our Case, if the Treaty had not been delayed?*

**I**T is worth Noting, that as the Power of Arguing declines, so the Ignorance encreases among the pretenders to the preserving our Commerce, and they bring such weak and wooden Arguments to prove their Positions, that it exposes their very Understanding.

Their Case is this in short, and they would be pitied in it if the Malice they shamelessly have shown did not render them more worthy of Scorn than Pity; They set out with their Mouth full of Bitterness and Rage; they bullyed the *Mercator* like a Mob that Huzza's and Halloo's at a disciplin'd Army, from whom they will fly at the first regular Attack.

They cast off all Manners, Decency and regard to Truth or Christianity, and thinking they should roar People out of their Reason, proved the French Trade Injurious to England, by calling Rogue and Villain those, who tho' they did not really write what they Opposed, yet they thought did write it. This they carryed on to the length of Lyes, Slander and false Reproaches, on Persons which signified as much to their Argument as Hampsted Windmill does to French Wine and Brandy.

At this filthy foul-mouth'd Work, they run their Readers and themselves too out of Breath with, and having spent their Shot, all the Attacks they have made since are no more than the *bruta fulmina* of a distemper'd parcel of Portugal Traders, who, to carry on their private Interest, would perswade us they are all Patriots for their Country; but may say with the Poet,

*In mediis lacerâ puppe relinquo aquis.*

Let us see now their Magazine of Billingsgate is exhausted, what sorry Stuff they put

upon the World instead of Argument. They tell us, the French King wears his own Manufacture, and that none of his Nobility, &c. will dare or venture to appear in his Presence with any other; from whence they Argue, that our Manufactures, if they were admitted there, will not be worn; And what then? Why then it is not worth our while to have the Duties in France taken off from our Manufactures or our Goods carryed in thither, to try whether they will wear them or no? Excellent Trade Logick this is, and worthy the People who use it, as if Trade was to be stopp'd on a Supposition that People will not buy, and as if we were not to go to Market first, and then see whether we can sell our Goods or no.

But passing that lesser Absurdity, let them tell us, what they can say for this other Notion, that the French King by Tyranny obliges his People, nay, even his Courtiers, to wear their own Woollen Manufactures? Now pray what need would there be of this Violence, if it were true, that their own were as good and as cheap as ours?

Let us View but the state of this Question; They are first fain to double their Duties from 10 to 20 per Cent. then from 20 to 40 per Cent. still it will not do, the English Manufactures outdid them, and they could not carry on their Works: Well! the French King was address'd to again, and then he raised the Duty to 70 per Cent. nay, at last, all not answering, he comes to a Prohibition of the whole.

One would think this should have been sufficient, tho' their Goods had been something worse than ours; but these Men acknowledge it was not, and that there required the awe of their great Monarch's Resentment, and his absolute Authority, as well as his Example, to prevent the wearing the English Manufacture.



Is this the Case, and yet at the same time their Manufactures better than ours? Are these the Evidences they give to prove, that the French make their Goods cheaper than we, and will undersell us in foreign Markets? What, undersell us in foreign, and not able to match us at home! What wretched People but these Men, take the English Nation to be, that they should be capable of being Deluded with such gross Stuff as this, *Stulta placent stulti*? Nothing could put such things upon the World, if they did not think the People they were talking to were Ideots of the first Rate.

These are the People that are to preserve Trade, and take upon them to Insult Men personally for not Conforming to such contradictory Stuff. If the French Manufactures were as good as ours, what need of high Duties, Prohibitions, &c. to keep ours out, and of Tyrannick Arbitrary Authority of the Prince, to oblige the People to wear them? Would not the Goodness and Cheapness of them force their Sale without their Helps? Nay, is it not an undeniable Evidence of the superior Goodness and Cheapness of the British Manufacture, that all these Violences are necessary to make the French wear them? If the stupid Ignorance of the dull hireling Lawyer that these Men employ were not grosser than a Native of *Muscovy*, he could never be brought to take in such absurd ridiculous Stuff, and if his Front did not outdo all that ever was Carted, he could never venture to publish it to the World.

The French, says this experienced Merchant, Work 7 d. in 1 s. cheaper than the English; They have Wooll and Workmen, and Spinners as good as we; they undersell us in foreign Markets, nay, they are able to supply us with Manufactures at home, if we will let them bring them in, and which, when the French Conquer us, we cannot help doing; and yet, at the same time, they own, and publish it themselves, that their Monarch wears their own Cloth, by the Authority of his Example, obliges his Court to do so too, and they, which is a mark of their Subjection to his Tyranny, dare do no otherwise; and all this after 70 per Cent. was laid upon our Goods, and a Prohibition of their Importation too.

Let the impartial Word be Judges of these Mens Insolence; Would there be any better Prohibition in the World of our Goods in France than to have their own be made better and cheaper? Does not the Price and Goodness command a Market all over the World? High Duties, Prohibitions, and Arts to make the People slight the Wear can be useful nowhere but where the Goods themselves are tempting, or the Price advantageous. Were the French able to Underwork us, or to Undersell us, what Nonsense would all these Things be?

Let these Men blush and be asham'd, if they have any Modesty, who have imposed such Lies and ridiculous Stuff upon the World, and let them know their abused Country may remember them for it; at least their Names will be for ever Recorded for the Deceivers of their Country.

In the mean time, let them look on the following Account of but a Weeks Trade with France, and consider what a Trade would this

have been if the other part of, viz. our Manufactures had had an open, free Importation there as ought to have been.

### From the Custom-House.

Exported to France in Six Days,

June 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8.

8	Short Cloths
5	Long Cloths
* 40	Yorkshire Cloths
54	Kerseys
162	Stuffs and Druggets
10 lb.	Cloth Remnants
12	Garments
225	Yards Flannel
1 piece	Hair Cloth
25 $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen	Hose
* 130 dozen	Ditto
34 lb.	Silk Hose
4 dozen	Hats
56 dozen	Calves Skins
128 lb.	wrought Leather
1043 lb.	Cotton Wooll
6 C. $\frac{1}{2}$	wrought Iron
464 lb.	wrought Brass
1 C. $\frac{1}{2}$	Clockwork & 3 Cafes
2 Pair	Smiths Bellows
	Certain Whips, Coffee-mills, Sauff,
	Clogs, Pattens,
	Shoes, Gloves,
	Tin, Turnery and
	Haberdashery &
	Apothecary's
	Wares
14	Chairs & 3 Couches
12200	Horn Plates
10000	Lanthorn Leaves
112 lb.	Epsom Salt
50 pieces	China Ware
5 pieces	Tapestry
1 Hhd.	Beer & 475 Bottles
6 C.	Elephants Teeth
28 lb.	Pewter
1 Ton 7 C.	Block Tin
10 Ton	Kids Hair
1 Ton 7 C.	Gauls
1 Ton 15 C.	Shumack
82 Ton 11 C.	Logwood
56 Fodder 5 C.	Lead
4 Ton 10 C.	Copperas
2 Ton	Brassilietto
2 Ton 15 C.	Iron
* 31 Ton 13 C.	Brown Sugar
* 30 Ton 5 C.	Rice
1 Ton 1 C.	Cheese
* 4 Ton 15 C.	Corrants
* 6 Ton	Oil
2447 lb.	Pimento
4 Chaldron	Grindstones
71 Bags	Spanish Wooll
15 quarter	Wheat Flower
250 quarter	Wheat
200 quarter	Rye
450 quarter	Barly
200 quarter	Oats
4 Firkins	Butter
12 Barrels	Orchall
10 Chests	Lemons
484 lb.	Shellack
138100 lb.	Virginia Tobacco

